Arrival at international Otopeni airport (BUH) by individual flights.
Transfer to the Boutique Hotel Amzei, located in the centre of the town; Suggested walk to the nearby Amzei market;
4:30 pm - from the hotel: walking tour with Stefano: Romanian Atheneum and King Carol Square where the Revolution of 1989 took place, Kretulescu Church;
7:30 pm - Presentation meeting in the bar of the hotel with a glass of Italian Prosecco; every participant will receive the brochure of the tour with the itinerary in Transylvania and Bukovina; Dinner with Turkish specialities.

Day 1 - Thurs, June 7 (d) Arrival in Bucharest

Day 2 - Fri, June 8 (b,l,d) Bucharest
9:30 am - Depart for the Armenian Church and visit the parish museum; coffee.
Visit Antique Art Gallery run by one of the most experienced art dealers in Bucharest;
1.30 pm - lunch at Manuc’s inn, a restaurant with Romanian specialities;
3:30 pm - National Art Museum (open 11 am - 7 pm), Medieval Gallery: religious art, post Byzantine art, Ottoman textiles and costumes, ecc. Highlights of the European Art Gallery (not to miss the three paintings by El Greco).
Continue the city tour: Stop at the famous bier-house ‘Carul cu Bere’, founded in 1879. Visit Stavropoleos Church with the small museum;
8:00 pm - Dinner to be announced.

Day 3 - Sat, June 9 (b,l,d) Bucharest - Mogoșoaia (50 km)
9:30 am - Depart for the Village Museum, which holds a collection of Romanian flatweaves. Stefano will present the museum and the main textile production areas: Oltenia, Transylvania, Moldavia and Bessarabia. Excellent museum shop; Craftsmen’s fair with items (textiles, wood works, painted eggs, ceramics) from different regions.
12:30 pm - Depart for Mogoșoaia Palace in the outskirts of Bucharest.
1:30 pm - Open air lunch in the garden of the Palace.
2:30 pm - Guided tour of Mogoșoaia Palace, finished in 1702 by Prince Brâncoveanu, which houses about 300 items donated by the top Romanian art-collectors Liana and Dan Nasta including Kula, Gördes, Kirsehir rugs, Senneh and Erzurum kilims and an excellent collection of Romanian and Bessarabian scoartze.
5:30 pm - Tea at Buhara Gallery with passionate carpet collector Norbert Hauser and a few other friends, followed by some meze. Dinner with traditional food, mititei.
Day 4 - Sun, June 10 (b,d) Buch. - Sinaia - Bran - Brașov (210 km)

9:00 am - Depart for Sinaia. Short presentation of the historical and religious background of the three regions of Romania: Walachia, Moldavia and Transylvania.
11:30 am - Guided visit of the Peleş Castle, former residence of the Royal family, which has retained original furnishing, including 18th. cent. Persian carpets.
1:00 pm - Open air snack at the coffee-shop of the Peleş Castle.
2:30 pm - Depart for Bran, home of the so-called ‘Dracula’ Castle, nestled in an idyllic valley. We’ll view the Castle from the outside and stroll in the nearby market, sampling local grappa, delicious sheep’s cheeses in fir tree bark, and Hungarian Kurtos Kolak (twisty sweet bread thingy).
5:00 pm - Visit the Lutheran Church in Rosenau and learn about the history of this Saxon village founded by the Teutonic Knights, including the reason why Ottoman rugs survived in the Lutheran Churches.
7:00 pm - Accommodation at the four-star Hotel Ambient**** (fitness center & spa).
8:00 pm - Dinner followed by a short walk to the medieval town-centre to admire the great Market Square, the City Hall and the Black Church by night.

Day 5 - Mon, June 11 (b,d) Brașov / Kronstadt (70 km)

9:00 am - Depart by bus to visit the Hungarian Lutheran Church of Brașov (4 rugs).
10:30 am - Private visit to the Black Church where almost 60 antique Ottoman rugs are displayed. Stephen Schlandt will present the historical organ of the Black Church and play a short concert. Stefano will deal with the history of the Church and outline some important examples of the carpet collection, including so called ‘Transylvanian’ rugs.
13:00 pm - Pastries, fresh fruit at Aldus Bookshop close to the Black Church.
2:30 pm - Depart for Bran, home of the so-called ‘Dracula’ Castle, nestled in an idyllic valley. We’ll view the Castle from the outside and stroll in the nearby market, sampling local grappa, delicious sheep’s cheeses in fir tree bark, and Hungarian Kurtos Kolak (twisty sweet bread thingy).
5:00 pm - Visit the Lutheran Church in Rosenau and learn about the history of this Saxon village founded by the Teutonic Knights, including the reason why Ottoman rugs survived in the Lutheran Churches.
7:00 pm - Accommodation at the four-star Hotel Ambient**** (fitness center & spa).
8:00 pm - Dinner followed by a short walk to the medieval town-centre to admire the great Market Square, the City Hall and the Black Church by night.
Day 6 - Tue, June 12 (b,l,d)  Brașov - Agapia - Bukovina (350 km)

8:30 am - Depart from the hotel. Stop at Sf Gheorghe and visit the National Seckler Museum. Open air lunch by the Red Lake. Drive across the spectacular Bicaz gorges.
3:30 pm - Visit Agapia Orthodox Monastery, including the small museum displaying kilims and religious items. Meeting sister Eufrosina at the weaving workshop.
7:00 pm - Accommodation in Voroneţ. Optional walk. Dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Day 7 - Wed, June 13 (b,l,d)  Bukovina (130 km)

9:00 am - After a rich breakfast, in the tradition of the region, we will first visit the charming Humor Monastery (founded in 1530); we will continue with the Folk Museum in Radauţi (25km). Then we will reach Suceviţa Monastery, built 1583 where Sister Mariami will present the 16th c. frescos of the ‘Scale of Virtues’ and the calendar inside the church. Not to miss the south wall showing Moses and the ‘burning bush’; Our visit will end with the small Museum showing some outstanding early 17th c. emboided tomb covers and icons.
1:00 pm - Lunch with wild mushrooms and polenta at the nearby Popasul Bukovina; In the afternoon we will visit Arbore monastery (1503) and finally the wonderful Voroneţ painted church, with the famous Last Judgement (1547); in the nearby market we can find some locally made textiles. Traditional dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Day 8, 9 - Thur, Fri June 14, 15 (b,l,d)  Bukovina - Sighişoara - Medias

Thursday: 8:30 am - Today we will leave early as we have a long but enchanting drive, about 300 km. Stop at Pasul Tihuţa (alt 1,200 m) between Transylvania and Bukovina; 11:30 am - Visit the Lutheran Church in Bistritza, with the highest tower in Transylvania and learn about the 50 rugs of the Parish, which are now in Nuremberg; Lunch; Stop in Gorneşti and meet a local collector.
7:30 pm - check in at Binder Buby Hotel**** Sighişoara; dinner at the hotel restaurant.

Friday: 9:00 pm - Sighişoara/Schässburg: walk to the Monastery Church, displaying about 30 rugs: a Star Ushak, several Lottos, a Bird rug dated 1646 and several double-niche Transylvanians. Then we will explore the citadel with the medieval walls and towers; 12.30 - Depart for Malâncrav to have lunch in a private Saxon home. In the afternoon we will first visit the wonderful Church with 15th c. frescos and then we will drive to Bierstan, former seat of the Saxon Lutheran Church (5 rugs). Overnight in Mediaş.
Day 10 - Sat, June 16 (b,l,d)  Mediaș - Câlnic - Sibiu (180)

9:30 am - Visit St. Margaret Church in Mediaș, probably the most beautiful Lutheran Church in Transylvania; the collection, about 40 rugs and fragments includes 4 Holbeins, 8 Lottos, 3 Çintamani, 10 Bird rugs and a rare Scorpion rug.
11:30 pm - Drive to Câlnic, a Saxon fortified church recently restored. Time allowing we will drive to nearby Sebeș and visit of the beautiful Ev. Church, which displays 5 rugs.
6:30 pm - Depart for Sibiu; accommodation at Hotel Golden Tulip****. Dinner t.b.a.

Day 11, 12 - Sun, Mon June 17, 18  Sibiu - Bucharest (280m)

Sunday: breakfast on the rooftop restaurant;
9:30 am - Depart for a walk along the medieval walls followed by the visit the Brukenthal Museum, the most important art museum in Transylvania. Visit of the European painting section, identifying rugs in paintings. Viewing some of the best Ottoman rugs and textiles of the collection, incl. a 15th c. brocade from Lucca.
1:00 pm - Lunch; free time for shopping and for discovering the medieval centre of Sibiu, European Cultural Capital 2007: the great square, the ‘Liers’ bridge.
4:30 pm - Visit the open-air Museum of Folk Civilization ASTRA.
8:00 pm - Farewell Dinner at the rooftop restaurant of the hotel with stunning;

Monday: 8.30 am - Depart for Bucharest. Journey across the spectacular Olt Valley.
10:00 am - Visit the 14th century Orthodox Monastery of Cozia. Lunch on the road.
14:30 pm - Arrival at Bucharest Otopeni airport in time to catch the return flights.
Check in for who is leaving the next day (extra night in Bucharest to be booked).
End of the Tour

Day 13 - Tue, June 21 (b)

Breakfast and individual transfer to Otopeni airport in connection to the return flight.

Tour fee

Price per person: in double room: please ask.
Single room supplement: please ask.
Accommodation with breakfast in 4 star hotels, full meals as specified including drinks (mineral water, local wine or beer and slibovitz), individual transfers from the airport, private van with ac, entrance tickets, expert English guiding.
No insurance and no flights are provided as part of the fee.
This programme may be slightly changed according to traffic conditions or other unforeseen factors.

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The itinerary in Romania 2018

Tour operator ROVIAL, Brașov